

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 20, 2013

COMMITTEES:  
COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND  
TRANSPORTATION  
FOREIGN RELATIONS  
SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE  
SMALL BUSINESS AND  
ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The Honorable Tom Wheeler  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

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Dear Chairman Wheeler:


Congratulations on your recent confirmation and swearing in as Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). I look forward to working with you to ensure the Commission's policies foster the technological innovation and economic growth that make our country great, particularly on wireless issues. I am writing to highlight one such technology: wireless microphones.

For years, professional sports leagues, churches, performing arts venues, theme parks and other vital community institutions and businesses have relied on wireless microphones for secure, clear, and efficient communications. No other technology provides the same balance of quality, reliability, and affordability without the encumbrance of wires. For example, during each Miami Dolphins home game, more than 60,000 people pack Sun Life Stadium, and millions more watch on televisions worldwide. Invisible to these fans are the dozens of wireless microphones that make these games possible. Using wireless microphones, coaches communicate with players, referees consult with one another and inform fans, and sportscasters report to viewers. Quite simply, wireless microphones enable fans at the stadium and at home to enjoy the game, and they provide similar benefits for church congregations and theater and theme park patrons.

In the current spectrum auction and repacking rulemaking, the FCC indicated it is considering a proposal to eliminate one or both of the channels that are dedicated to wireless microphones. I have heard from numerous stakeholders that could be negatively impacted by this elimination and that have filed comments at the Commission. Because wireless microphones are so vital to so many community institutions, I urge you to take these concerns into consideration when drafting the final auction and repacking rules.

Like you, I embrace the potential of wireless broadband and feel that our spectrum policies must accommodate new technologies. And I believe we can achieve this goal without compromising vital technologies that are essential to the operations of businesses and organizations across the nation. Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I look forward to working with you to promote the development and use of innovative communication technologies such as wireless microphones.

Sincerely,



Marco Rubio  
United States Senator



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

April 15, 2014

The Honorable Marco Rubio  
United States Senate  
317 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Rubio:

Thank you for your letter concerning the importance of preserving sufficient bandwidth for wireless microphones as the Commission considers how to proceed in its incentive auction rulemaking. I agree with you that many important institutions in our country – including places of worship, the music industry, journalists, theater, sports, and the film industry – provide a wide variety of beneficial services through use of wireless microphones.

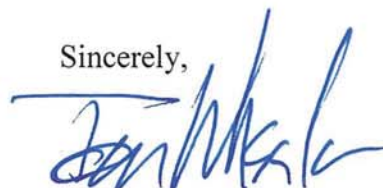
In directing the Commission to design and implement the incentive auction in the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012, Congress made no accommodation for wireless microphone use in the 600 MHz band. However, recognizing the importance of wireless microphones, the Commission is evaluating how best to accommodate their continued operations as it conducts the auction and reorganizes the broadcast television bands.

Currently, in markets in which they are available, up to two channels in the UHF band are designated for wireless microphone use. In the most spectrally congested markets, however, there are often no designated channels. As a result of the UHF band reorganization, following the auction, it is possible that there will be even fewer markets in which these channels are available, and other unlicensed devices are also interested in having access to these bands, in addition to wireless microphones. We are exploring a range of options to promote the most efficient use of this spectrum while allowing wireless microphones to continue operating in the repacked television bands, in a manner which balances the needs of wireless microphone users and others using the available 600 MHz spectrum.

Finally, we envision finding additional spectrum for the use of wireless microphones in other bands. We will continue to work with the wireless microphone industry to develop a suitable framework for wireless microphone transition. Your letter will be placed in the record of the proceeding as the Commission endeavors to ensure that sufficient spectrum remains available for wireless microphones.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,



Tom Wheeler